(b) Government has discussed developments relating to Iraq with the U.S. Government on a number of occasions and has conveyed that while Iraq has to faithfully comply with the provisions of the UN Security Council resolutions, the decision on further action should be taken by the UN Security Council and, further, that all concerned should cooperate fully in finding a peaceful resolution to the issue.

Honours to NRIs

251. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of NRIs and the persons of Indian origin abroad have been honoured by Government on the 'Bharatiya Pravasi Diwas' on January 9, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the norms and criteria adopted for the purpose; and

(c) the recommendations of the Diaspora Committee headed by Dr. L.M. Singhvi in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) On the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, the following persons of Indian origin were conferred "Pravasi Bharatiya Samman" Awards for their outstanding contribution towards fostering better understanding abroad of India and its civilization and/or for having extended their support to India's causes and concerns and for advancing her interests internationally and/or for making significant contribution or service to the Indian Diaspora:

1. Rt. Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, (Mauritius)
2. Prof. Fatima Meer, (South Africa)
3. Dr. Hari N. Harilela, (Hong Kong-China)
4. Mr. Kanaksi G. Khimji, (Oman)
5. Mr. Manilal Premchand Chandaria, (Kenya)
6. Lord Navnit Dholakia, (UK)
7. Mr. Rajat Gupta, (USA)

8. Sir S. S. Ramphal, (Guyana—currently resident in UK)

9. Dato Seri S. Samy Vellu, (Malaysia)

10. Mr. Ujjal Dosanjh, (Canada)

(c) The High Level Committee headed by Dr. L.M. Singhvi recommended that these awards may be conferred every year on NRIs and PIOs who have made outstanding contributions towards fostering better understanding abroad of India and its civilization; for persons among them two have extended their support to India's causes and concerns; and those who have advanced her interests internationally. The awards may also be given for significant contributions or service to the Indian Diaspora. Further, the award may carry a 'sanad' and a citation.

Review of nuclear defence policy

252. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed its nuclear defence policy and strategy of no-first use of nuclear weapons in the light of Pak-President's New Year Eve (2003) outbursts threatening use of atomic weapons as a counter to conventional war by India, including any violation of the Line of Control in Kashmir by Indian forces; and

(b) if so, Government's decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government reviewed on January 4, 2003 the operationalization of India's Nuclear Doctrine and made public information regarding the nuclear doctrine and operational arrangements governing India's nuclear assets including the No-First Use posture i.e., nuclear weapons will only be used in retaliation against a nuclear attack on Indian territory or on Indian forces anywhere.

Evacuation of Indians during US-Iraq war

253. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have instructed its Missions to make